

Alexander was still brimming over with the best and most benevolent intentions towards every one. The world was to be free, happy, and religious ; but he had rather vague ideas as to how Ms plans were to be carried out. Thus it is characteristic that when his successor desired to have a solemn coronation as King of Poland it was found that Alexander had not foreseen the difficulties which were met with in trying to arrange for the coronation of a sovereign of the Greek Church as King of a Boman Catholic State. The much-dreaded but very misty Holy Alliance was one of the few fruits of Alexander's visions. His mind is described as passing through a regular series of stages with each influence under which he acted. He ended his life tired out, disillusioned, "deceived in everything, weighed down with regret," obliged to crush the very hopes of his people he had encouraged, dying in 1825 at Taganrog, leaving his new Polish Kingdom to be wiped out by his successors.

The minor sovereigns require little mention. They retained any titles they had received from Napoleon, while they exulted, at being free from his heavy hand and sharp superintendence. Each got a share, small or great, of the spoil except the poor King of Denmark, who, being assured by Alexander on his departure that he carried away all hearts, answered, "Yes, but not any souls."

The re-introduction of much that 'was bad in the old system (one country even going so far as to re-establish torture), the steady attack on liberty and on all liberal ideas, Wirtemberg being practically the only State which grumbled at the tightening of the reins so dear to Metternich, —all formed a fitting commentary on the proclamations by which the Sovereigns had hounded on their people against the man they represented as the one obstacle to the freedom and peace of Europe. In gloom and disenchantment the nations sat down to lick their wounds. The contempt shown by the monarchs for everything but the right of conquest, the manner in which they treated the lands won from Napoleon as a gigantic "pool" which was to be shared amongst them, so many souls to each, their total failure to fulfil their

promises to their subjects of